

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: CHRISTENSEN, Carlos M. et al. Conf.:
Appl. No.: New Group:
Filed: April 25, 2001 Examiner:
For: RF HOME AUTOMATION SYSTEM COMPRISING MEANS WITH
DUAL FUNCTIONALITY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

April 25, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) An automation system according to claim 1, wherein the processors of each of the plurality of devices further comprise means for generating a first signal comprising one or more destination identifiers corresponding to controller or destination devices, information related to the operation of the appliance connected the device, and repeater identifiers corresponding to one or more signal repeating devices.

4. (Amended) An automation system according to claim 1, wherein the first memory of the first controller comprises a routing table indicating, for each device, other devices which can receive and process a signal transmitted by said device.

6. (Amended) An automation system according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the plurality of devices are further adapted to receive an input from the appliance connected thereto, and wherein the processor of a device is adapted to, in response to the received input, generate and transmit a first signal.

9. (Amended) An automation system according to claim 1, wherein the appliance connected to one or more of the plurality of devices is a sensor selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic radiation sensor, luminosity sensor, moisture sensor, movement sensor, temperature sensor, mechanical actuator contact, sound sensor, pressure sensor, electric signal sensor, smoke detector, audio pattern recognizing means, visual pattern recognizing means and molecular composition analyzing means.

11. (Amended) An automation system according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the plurality of devices are further adapted to generate an output to the appliance connected thereto in

response to a received signal, said output being related to the operational state of the appliance.

13. (Amended) An automation system according to claim 11, wherein a device is adapted to prohibit the output in response to a received first set of instruction or a first code or predetermined action provided by the user, and wherein said restriction can only be removed in response to a received second set of instructions or a second code or predetermined action provided by the user.

18. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of building a routing table indicating, for each device, other devices which can receive and process a signal transmitted by said device, and storing the routing table in the first memory of the first controller.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of, upon receiving a first or a second signal at a device, generate and transmit an acknowledgement signal having the identifier of the device or controller transmitting the first or second signal as destination identifier.

REMARKS

The amendment to the claims is merely to delete multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

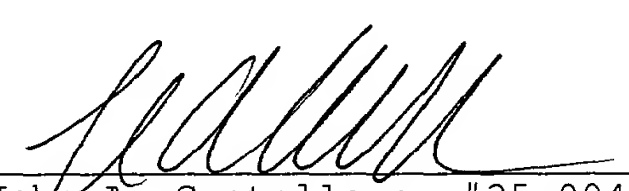
Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings Showing Changes Made

(Rev. 01/22/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) An automation system according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the processors of each of the plurality of devices further comprise means for generating a first signal comprising one or more destination identifiers corresponding to controller or destination devices, information related to the operation of the appliance connected the device, and repeater identifiers corresponding to one or more signal repeating devices.

4. (Amended) An automation system according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, wherein the first memory of the first controller comprises a routing table indicating, for each device, other devices which can receive and process a signal transmitted by said device.

6. (Amended) An automation system according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, wherein one or more of the plurality of devices are further adapted to receive an input from the appliance connected thereto, and wherein the processor of a device is adapted to, in response to the received input, generate and transmit a first signal.

9. (Amended) An automation system according to [any of claims 1 to 8]claim 1, wherein the appliance connected to one or more of the plurality of devices is a sensor selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic radiation sensor, luminosity sensor, moisture sensor, movement sensor, temperature sensor, mechanical actuator contact, sound sensor, pressure sensor, electric signal sensor, smoke detector, audio pattern recognizing means, visual pattern recognizing means and molecular composition analyzing means.

11. (Amended) An automation system according to [any of claims]claim 1, wherein one or more of the plurality of devices are further adapted to generate an output to the appliance connected thereto in response to a received signal, said output being related to the operational state of the appliance.

13. (Amended) An automation system according to [claims 11 or 12]claim 11, wherein a device is adapted to prohibit the output in response to a received first set of instruction or a first code or predetermined action provided by the user, and wherein said restriction can only be removed in response to a received second set of instructions or a second code or predetermined action provided by the user.

18. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 15 to 17]claim 15, further comprising the step of building a routing table indicating, for each device, other devices which can receive and process a signal transmitted by said device, and storing the routing table in the first memory of the first controller.

20. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 15 to 19]claim 15, further comprising the step of, upon receiving a first or a second signal at a device, generate and transmit an acknowledgement signal having the identifier of the device or controller transmitting the first or second signal as destination identifier.